

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 have been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority, and receipt of all of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for considering all of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 29, 2004 and November 4, 2004.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, asserting that the arrow B described on page 14, line 24 of the specification is not shown in Figure 2. Applicants have amended Figure 2 to label the arrow shown in the Figure with the letter 'B', and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also asserted that the "abnormal temperature detecting means" referred to on page 3, line 8 of the specification lacks a reference number. However, the Examiner acknowledged that the abnormal temperature detecting means is also described as a "thermostat (210)". Applicants respectfully submit that numerous drawings, including, but not limited to, for example, Figures 2, 16, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B and 26 illustrate a thermostat 210, and thus submit that the objection is improper. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner also indicated that Figure 26 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art". Applicants have amended Figure 26 to include the legend "Conventional Art", and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also asserted that Figure 25 is not described in the specification. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 25 is described on, for example, pages 60-61 of the specification. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection, and accept the drawings.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-4, asserting that the term "inverter power circuit" lacks antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claims 2-4, which no longer recite this term. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Okabayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,096). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

In the specification of the present application, Applicants disclose a heat generating apparatus, which includes, inter alia, a heat generating member, an exciting coil that causes the heat generating member to generate heat by electromagnetic induction, and a power circuit that includes a rectifying circuit, a resonance circuit and a smoothing circuit. The resonance circuit is connected in parallel with the exciting coil, one end of the smoothing circuit is connected to the resonance circuit and the exciting coil, and another end of the smoothing circuit

is directly connected to the rectifying circuit. See, for example, Applicants' Figure 16.

Okabayashi is directed towards an induction type heat fixing device. Okabayashi discloses a drive circuit in which a rectifier circuit 48 rectifies an AC power source 45 to supply a direct current to a resonance condenser 49 and an induction heating coil 90. See Figures 34 and 36, and col. 20, lines 18-23.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the resonance condenser 49 is equivalent to Applicants' claimed smoothing circuit. See page 5 of the Office Action. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Okabayashi's drive circuit does not include a resonance circuit and a smoothing circuit, where one end of the smoothing circuit is connected to the resonance circuit and the exciting coil, and another end of the smoothing circuit is directly connected to the rectifier circuit 48. Applicants submit that Okabayashi's resonance condenser 49 does not directly connect to the rectifier circuit 48, but connects to the rectifier circuit 48 only through a thermostat 46. See Figures 34 and 36, for example.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Okabayashi fails to disclose or suggest a power circuit that includes a rectifying circuit, a resonance circuit and a smoothing circuit, where one end of the smoothing circuit connects to the resonance circuit and an exciting coil, and another end of the smoothing circuit directly connects to the rectifying circuit, as recited in Applicants' independent claims 1, 5, 10 and 11.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Okabayashi does not anticipate the embodiments recited in Applicants' independent claims 1,

5, 10 and 11, and thus respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection.

Dependent claims 2 and 6-9 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 5.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okabayashi in view of Akutsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,775,491). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Akutsu fails to overcome the deficiencies of Okabayashi. That is, Applicants submit that the combination of Okabayashi and Akutsu fails to disclose or suggest a power circuit that includes a rectifying circuit, a resonance circuit and a smoothing circuit, where one end of the smoothing circuit connects to the resonance circuit and an exciting coil, and another end of the smoothing circuit directly connects to the rectifying circuit, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

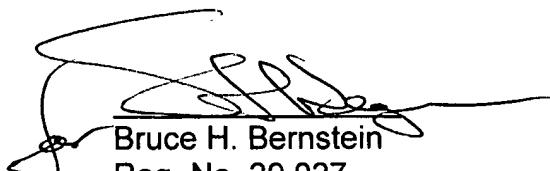
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 2 and 26. These sheet replace the original sheet including Figures 2 and 26. In Figure 2, an arrow has been labeled with the reference 'B'. In Figure 26, a 'Conventional Art' label has been added. No new matter has been added.